

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A camera with an audio reproduction function, comprising:
an image pick-up device which converts an optical image into an electrical signal;
an image-capturing instructing device which instructs the start of a picture taking operation with the image pick-up device;

a signal processing device which processes the electrical signal obtained by the image pick-up device to convert it into the image data;

a recording device which records the image data obtained by the signal processing device on a recording medium;

a reproduction processing device which reproduces an audio file recorded on the recording medium;

an audio output device which outputs the audio reproduced by the reproduction processing device audibly;

a device which detects an empty capacity of the recording medium;

a device which determines an estimated recording data amount of image acquired by an image-capturing operation using the image pick-up device; and

a control device which controls selective deleting of an audio file from said recording medium, wherein, when the empty capacity of the recording medium is less than the estimated recording amount, said control device controls selective deleting by controlling said reproduction processing device to reproduce

a portion of an audio file that is a candidate deletion object for output by said audio output device and deletes the candidate deletion object upon determining that an operator is proceeding with a previously-initiated picture taking operation wherein deletion of music is performed in an image capturing sequence.

5.-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) The camera according to claim 4, wherein said control device prevents deletion of the candidate deletion object when the operator stops a previously-initiated picture taking operation.

10. (Previously presented) The camera according to claim 9, wherein said control device selectively designates a different audio file as a candidate deletion object after the operator stops the previously-initiated picture taking operation.

11. (Currently amended) The camera according to claim 4, wherein said image-capturing instructing device is a shutter button, ~~and the operator fully depresses the shutter button to indicate that the candidate deletion object should be deleted.~~

12. (Previously presented) The camera according to claim 4, wherein said image-capturing instructing device is a shutter button, and the operator releases the shutter button to indicate that the candidate deletion object should not be deleted.

13. (Previously presented) The camera according to claim 4, wherein said control device deletes the candidate deletion object before the image pick-up device captures an optical image.

14. (Previously presented) The camera according to claim 4, wherein said control device deletes the candidate deletion object after the image pick-up device captures an optical image.

15. (Previously presented) The camera according to claim 4, wherein the candidate deletion object is selected based on the file size of the corresponding audio file.

16. (New) The camera according to claim 4, wherein when the shutter is at a location half depressed, if an empty area of the recording medium is not enough, a music file that is a deletion object is reproduced, and when the shutter button is at a location fully depressed without interruption, the music file is deleted, and the image-capturing operation is performed and the captured image is recorded, and when the shutter button is restored and is not depressed after the reproduction of the music file, deletion of the music file is not performed.